CABLE ADDRESS:
ASTRONOMER
SAN FRANCISCO

LICK OBSERVATORY
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

MOUNT HAMILTON

August 15, 1911.

Dear Sir:-

In Dr. Campbell's absence I take the liberty to answer your letter to ~~me~~ him of August 10th, relating to spectroscopic binaries.

The sentence to which you refer in Dr. Campbell's Bulletin means that, as you infer, one star out of every four that have been examined with the spectroscope has been found to be a spectroscopic binary. You are also correct in thinking that the variations in radial velocities which have been observed are due to the presence of relatively dark bodies, heavy enough to swing the brighter stars with them around a common centre of gravity; in fact, the term "spectroscopic binary" has reference to just such a system. In a few instances, however, both members of the system are bright enough to have their spectra recorded.

Sincerely yours,

R. G. Aitken,

Acting Director.

Mr. W. H. Knight,

621 Witmer St.,

Los Angeles.